This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning Operations and is not part of the Official Record

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

❑ **BLACK BORDERS**

❑ **IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES**

❑ **FADED TEXT OR DRAWING**

❑ **BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING**

❑ **SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES**

❑ **COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS**

❑ **GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS**

❑ **LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT**

❑ **REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY**

❑ **OTHER:** _____

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.
As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/838,239	04/20/2001	Srikanth Natarajan	10007591/020	9191

7590 09/03/2004	**EXAMINER**
HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY	PHAN, TAM T

HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, CO   80527-2400

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2144	

DATE MAILED: 09/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/838,239	NATARAJAN ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Tam (Jenny) Phan	2144

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _17 December 2002_.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-8_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-8_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _4/20/01&12/17/02_.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This application has been examined. Claims 1-8 are presented for examination.

Priority

2.   No priority claims have been made.

3.   The effective filing date for the subject matter defined in the pending claims in this

application is 04/20/2001 (20 April 2001).

Information Disclosure Statement

4.   An initialed and dated copy of Applicant's IDS form 1449, Received 4/20/01 (20 April

2001) and 12/17/2002 (17 December 200), is attached to the instant Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

6.   Claims 1-4 and 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lecheler

et al. (WO 00/49769), hereinafter referred to as Lecheler.

7.   Regarding claim 1, Lecheler disclosed a method of managing a computer network,

comprising the steps of: assigning to a collection computer a management domain identifier

uniquely associated with a management domain in which each collection computer resides;

receiving, in at least one management computer, information from the collection computer that

includes the management domain identifier; and maintaining within the at least one management

computer a mapping table [a database] of the information accessed using the management

domain identifier (Title, Abstract, Figures 1 and 3, page 10 lines 7-19, page 13 lines 20-23).

8.   Regarding claim 2, Lecheler disclosed a method wherein the step of assigning comprises

the step of establishing at least one management domain, wherein each management domain

includes at least one collection computer (Figures 1 and 3, page 8 lines 10-31, page 12 lines 7-

20).

9.   Regarding claim 3, Lecheler disclosed a method wherein the management domain

identifier is a domain name of the management domain (page 10 line 26-page 11 line 13).

10.   Regarding claim 4, Lecheler disclosed a method wherein the information is network

topology information (page 13 lines 14-23, page 15 lines 13-28, page 18 lines 3-11).

11.   Regarding claim 7, Lecheler disclosed a method comprising the step of managing, by

each collection computer, at least one network object; and resolving, by each collection

computer, a network address of each network object into a resolved network address included in

the information received at the at least one management computer (page 10 lines 7-19, page 15

lines 13-28).

12.   Regarding claim 8, Lecheler disclosed a system for managing a computer network,

comprising: a plurality of collection computers, wherein each collection computer is assigned a

management domain identifier uniquely associated with a management domain in which each

collection computer resides; at least one management computer for receiving information, from

the plurality of collection computers, that includes the management domain identifier; and at

least one computer database for maintaining within the at least one management computer

information accessed using the management domain identifier (Title, Abstract, Figures 1, 3,

page 10 lines 7-19, page 13 lines 20-23).

13.   Since all the limitations of the claimed invention were disclosed by Lecheler, claims 1-4

and 7-8 are rejected.

14.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

15.   Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pulsipher et al.

(U.S. Patent Number 5,948,055), hereinafter referred to as Pulsipher.

16.   Regarding claim 1, Pulsipher disclosed a method of managing a computer network,

comprising the steps of: assigning to a collection computer a management domain identifier

uniquely associated with a management domain in which each collection computer resides;

receiving, in at least one management computer, information from the collection computer that

includes the management domain identifier; and maintaining within the at least one management

computer a database of the information accessed using the management domain identifier

(Figures 2-5, column 3 lines 16-32, column 7 lines 41-57, column 8 lines 7-24, column 10 lines

13-25).

17.   Regarding claim 2, Pulsipher disclosed a method wherein the step of assigning comprises

the step of establishing at least one management domain, wherein each management domain

includes at least one collection computer (Figure 2, column 6 lines 11-19, column 6 line 65-column 7 line 21).

18.   Regarding claim 3, Pulsipher disclosed a method wherein the management domain identifier is a domain name of the management domain (column 10 lines 13-25).

19.   Regarding claim 4, Pulsipher disclosed a method wherein the information is network topology information (Abstract, Figures 2-3B, column 6 lines 52-64, column 7 lines 41-57).

20.   Regarding claim 5, Pulsipher disclosed a method, wherein the step of receiving comprises the steps of receiving first information from a first collection computer, wherein the first information includes a first network address and a first management domain identifier; receiving second information from a second collection computer, wherein the second information includes a second network address and a second management domain identifier, wherein the second network address is identical to the first network address; comparing the second network address to the first network address using the second management domain identifier and the first management domain identifier; assigning a network element associated with the second network address as a primary network element when the second network address belongs to a different management domain than the first network address; and assigning the network element associated with the second network address as a secondary network element when the second network address belongs to a same management domain as the first network address (Figure 2, Figures 8A-8B, Figures 13-15B, column 6 line 65-column 7 line 21, column 10 lines 13-25, column 11 lines 20-31, column 15 lines 33-48).

21.   Regarding claim 6, Pulsipher disclosed a method wherein the step of maintaining comprises the step of using management domain identifiers to consolidate network topology

information from collection computers having identical network addresses and belonging to

different management domains (Figure 2, column 6 line 65-column 7 line 21).

22.   Regarding claim 7, Pulsipher disclosed a method comprising the step of managing, by

each collection computer, at least one network object; and resolving, by each collection

computer, a network address of each network object into a resolved network address included in

the information received at the at least one management computer (column 9 line 56-column 10

line 7, column 10 lines 13-25, column 11 lines 8-31).

23.   Regarding claim 8, the system corresponds directly to the method of claim 1, and thus is

rejected using the same rationale.

24.   Since all the limitations of the claimed invention were disclosed by Pulsipher, claims 1-8

are rejected.

Conclusion

25.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's

disclosure.

        a.   Sugauchi et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,041,349) disclosed an identifier of each

        management module is obtained on the basis of management information commonly

        handled by network and administration management information, and management

        information of the two is collected on the basis of the identifier, and a client/server

        configuration map is generated, and a network map corresponding to the map is displayed

        from the display element of the generated configuration map on the basis of the

        correspondence of the two, and the client/server configuration is displayed in relation to

        the network map, and an administrative role and a related object node can be identified

easily (Refer to Abstract, Figures 1-4, 7-11, 13-16, column 5 line 44-column 6 line 66,

column 8 line 35-column 9 line 65).

b.   Schettler et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,787,252) disclosed discovery/layout

software configures a general purpose computer system to act as a management station

using an industry standard SNMP protocol. The discovery/layout software has a

discovery mechanism and a layout mechanism which, in combination, permit the

discovery/layout software to provide various submaps to a display for illustrating

network topology, which includes devices and device interconnections of a network. The

submaps correspond to various hierarchical views of a network. Significantly, one or

more filtering systems are provided in the discovery/layout software for filtering objects

to be displayed within the submaps.

c.   Althaus et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,697,851) disclosed a method and apparatus

in a distributed data processing system for selecting configuration information for a client

in the distributed data processing system. A subnet for the client is identified using the

configuration information. A set of identification tokens is identified from the request. A

plurality of containers in a hierarchical structure is traversed using the subnet and

identification tokens to identify selected containers within the plurality of containers

matching the subnet and the identification tokens. The identified containers are selected

in an order the preserves preference as determined by their arrangement in the

hierarchical structure and by the data that each contains.

26.   Refer to the enclosed PTO-892 for details and complete listing of other pertinent prior art

of record.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tam (Jenny) Phan whose telephone number is (703) 305-4665 or (571) 272-3930 (new telephone number after October 2004). The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Cuchlinski can be reached on 703-308-3873. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

William Cuchlinski
SPE
Art Unit 2144
703-308-3873

tp
September 1, 2004